that support of the League of Nations would ensure it; did trust Mr. Baldwin to put that policy into effect. They had voted in their millions for peace in the Peace Ballot, and now were provided with another opportunity to vote for peace in the General Election. They availed themselves of it, and the National Government was returned with only a slightly reduced majority. It had taken office to defend the Gold Standard, and soon had to abandon it; now it had been re-elected to defend peace, and would, before this term was run, have to conduct a war.

Peace was the last deception in a series of deceptions.[31] In 1931 money was saved, in 1935, peace: and when it became apparent that in reality neither money nor peace had been saved, that both were irretrievably lost, what was there left to save? Only, it appeared, souls; and that salvage no one on Front or Opposition or Cross or Back benches, seemed equipped to undertake; not even Mr. Baldwin. With the promise of peace, demagogy for the time being exhausted its ingenuity, reached

[21] In the course of a debate on rearmament in the House of Commons in November 1936, with surprising candour Mr. Baldwin explained his tactics in the 1935 General Election. There was, he said, 'probably a stronger pacifist feeling running in this country than at any time since the War. . „ . At the election at Fulham, a seat which the National Government held was lost on no other issue but the pacifist.[5] If, in such circumstances, he had used the great majority at his disposal to promote rearmament, 'it would have defeated entirely the end I had in view/ He could not <u>think</u> of anything 'that would have made the loss of the election, from my point of view, more certain/ Therefore, he decided for the time being to

keep his belief in the necessity for rearmament to himself, even announced that 'there has not been, there is not and there will not be any question of huge armaments or materially increased forces/ and 'we won the election with a large majority/ Having won it, and with five years to run before another General Election, the previous objection to rearmament no longer operated, and they could go ahead with it. Such, in Mr. Baldwin's own words, 'appalling frankness' was too much even for his devoted followers, and for a little while his prestige waned. By his handling of the Abdication crisis which followed soon after, however, he recovered, and more than recovered, his old position, and continued to be venerated for his honesty and simplicity and directness.